United Nations S/2000/481

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 24 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a statement dated 24 May 2000 of the Government of Eritrea, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, concerning the appeal issued by the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44780 (E) 240500

Annex to the letter dated 24 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Government of Eritrea concerning the appeal issued by the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity

The Government of Eritrea welcomes the communiqué of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea issued on 24 May 2000 (see enclosure).

The OAU communiqué requests, among other things, "Ethiopia and Eritrea to immediately implement the redeployment of their respective forces to the positions they controlled prior to 6 May 1998, in conformity with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Modalities without prejudging the final status of the territories concerned, which will be determined at the end of the delimitation and demarcation process".

The OAU communiqué affirms that "Eritrea stated its readiness to respond immediately and favourably to the two-point appeal of the current Chairman of OAU, namely, the immediate cessation of the fighting and the resumption of proximity talks".

Ethiopia on the other hand refused to accept a cessation of the fighting although this was a central point of the appeal of the current Chairman and a necessary condition for the implementation of redeployment in accordance with the Modalities of Implementation. In this connection, OAU in its communiqué has stated that it "strongly deplores that its appeal for an immediate end of the fighting has not yet been heeded". Unable to persuade Ethiopia to accept a cessation of the war, OAU has appealed for measures to be taken by both sides "with the aim of initiating the de-escalation of the conflict to arrive at its cessation".

Eritrea has decided, for the sake of peace, to accept the OAU appeal for de-escalation. In this spirit, Eritrea:

1. Announces, in accordance with the second requirement of the OAU communiqué, that it has decided to redeploy its forces to positions held before 6 May 1998. Eritrea will begin this redeployment at midnight, 25 May, in the Zalanbessa area;

2. Reiterates, in accordance with the fifth requirement, its commitment to implement the Framework Agreement and the Modalities and to resolve the border dispute in conformity with the two aforementioned documents;

3. Expresses its readiness to finalize consolidated Technical Arrangements that will pave the way for the full implementation of the OAU peace package;

4. Expresses its readiness to send its delegation to the Algiers proximity talks.

In heeding the appeal of OAU, Eritrea notes that Ethiopia's pursuit of the war in defiance of OAU and the international community has cost the lives of tens of thousands and the displacement of a million citizens. Furthermore, Eritrea requests that OAU and the international community take all necessary action in the event that Ethiopia once again refuses to heed OAU's call.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Asmara
24 May 2000

Enclosure

Communiqué of the Organization of African Unity on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

At the initiative of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), an OAU delegation led by Ahmed Ouyahia, Personal Envoy of the current chairman, visited Addis Ababa and Asmara from 21 to 24 May 2000.

This mission falls within the purview of the intensive efforts made by the current Chairman and particularly since the adjournment of the Algiers proximity talks and the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, efforts aimed at putting an immediate end to the fighting and bringing back quickly the two Parties to the negotiating table for the finalization of consolidated Technical Arrangements and consequently the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for the peaceful and definitive resolution of the border dispute between the two Parties.

In Addis Ababa, the OAU delegation was received by Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. In Asmara, and in the absence of the Head of State from the Capital, the delegation held talks with a delegation of senior officials led by Mr. Woldensae, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and including the Director of the Cabinet and other senior advisers of the Head of State. Furthermore, and throughout this mission, the Personal Envoy held close consultation with Salim Ahmed Salim, OAU Secretary-General.

To each of the two Parties, the Personal Envoy reiterated the appeal of the current Chairman for an immediate cessation of the fighting and the speedy resumption of the proximity talks. The Personal Envoy stressed that this appeal was also repeated by the international community and particularly by the United Nations Security Council.

Eritrea stated its readiness to respond immediately and favourably to the two-point appeal of the current Chairman of OAU, namely, the immediate cessation of the fighting and the resumption of proximity talks.

On its part, Ethiopia which stated that it was ready for an immediate resumption of the proximity talks, considered, however, that the fighting could not stop before the restoration of the territorial status quo prevailing at 6 May 1998.

At the same time and beyond this fundamental divergence between the two Parties, the delegation noted that:

1. Ethiopia stated solemnly that it had no territorial ambitions in Eritrea;

2. Each of the two Parties stated that it was still committed to the Framework Agreement and the Modalities that they had accepted and that had been unanimously endorsed by the thirty-fifth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Algiers;

3. Each of the two Parties restated its commitment to the redeployment of its troops to the line of 6 May 1998 and that in conformity with the Modalities that they had mutually accepted;

4. Finally, each of the two Parties committed itself to resolving the territorial dispute on the basis of the relevant colonial treaties and the applicable international law, through delimitation and demarcation with the assistance of the Cartographic Unit of the United Nations and, if necessary, through arbitration.

In the face of this situation, OAU strongly deplores that its appeal for an immediate end of the fighting has not yet been heeded, while the necessary elements for a peaceful, fair and definitive resolution of this conflict and particularly the border dispute, have already been defined by the Organization, accepted by the two Parties and endorsed by the international community as a whole.

At the same time, OAU expresses its deep concern about the thousands of deaths already caused by the resumption of fighting on 12 May 2000, a terrible situation to which should be added the suffering and displacement of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian victims of this fratricidal conflict. In addition, the continuation of this armed conflict is likely to undermine the stability and security of the entire subregion.

This is why OAU reiterated its urgent appeal for an immediate end to the fighting and the resumption of peace negotiations.

Furthermore, and with the aim of initiating the de-escalation of this conflict and arrive at its cessation:

(a) Firstly, OAU requests Ethiopia and Eritrea to immediately implement the redeployment of their respective forces to the positions they controlled prior to 6 May 1998, in conformity with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Modalities without prejudging the final status of the territories concerned, which will be determined at the end of the delimitation and demarcation process;

(b) Secondly, and to this end, OAU requests Eritrea to announce immediately its decision to carry out this redeployment in conformity with paragraph 1 of the Modalities and to implement it immediately;

(c) Thirdly, and in the same spirit, OAU requests Ethiopia to announce immediately after Eritrea, its decision to redeploy its forces according to paragraph 2 of the Modalities, it being understood that this deployment must concern all the positions taken since 6 February 1999 and that were not under Ethiopian control before 6 May 1998;

(d) Fourthly, OAU takes note of the statement made by Ethiopia according to which it has no claim on the territory of Eritrea and requests it to reaffirm this publicly and officially;

(e) Fifthly, OAU takes note of the commitment of Ethiopia and Eritrea to implement the Framework Agreement and the Modalities that they had mutually accepted, and particularly to resolve their border dispute in conformity with the two aforementioned documents;

(f) Sixthly, OAU takes note of the readiness of the two Parties to finalize quickly the consolidated Technical Arrangements, then proceed to the signature of the Framework Agreement, Modalities and consolidated Technical Arrangements, to establish a formal cessation of hostilities and implement faithfully all the three documents constituting the peaceful and definitive settlement plan for the resolution of the conflict;

(g) Seventhly, on behalf of the current Chairman of OAU, the Personal Envoy invites the two Parties to send their delegations to Algiers for the resumption of the proximity talks, immediately after the publication of the statements of each Party as stated in paragraphs (b) and (c) above.

OAU hopes that this appeal will be heeded by each of the two Parties and that wisdom will prevail in the interest of the two brotherly and neighbouring peoples. It also hopes that the international community will support this effort aimed at stopping the fighting in this bloody conflict and opening the way for the full implementation of the peace plan proposed by OAU, accepted by the two Parties and supported by the entire international community.

Algiers and Addis Ababa
24 May 2000

United Nations S/2000/482

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000

Original: English

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force of 22 May 2000 (S/2000/459),

Welcoming and *encouraging* efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases,

Decides:

(a) To call upon the parties concerned to implement immediately its resolution 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973;

(b) To renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for another period of six months, that is, until 30 November 2000;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to submit, at the end of this period, a report on the development in the situation and the measures taken to implement resolution 338 (1973).

00-45613 (E)

United Nations S/2000/483

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, issued on 25 May 2000, entitled "Ethiopia's commitment to peace unchanged" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fisseha **Yimer**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-44907 (E) 250500

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Ethiopia's commitment to peace unchanged

Eritrea's aggression against Ethiopia is being reversed step by step through the heroic efforts of the armed forces. The crumbling of positions held by Eritrea in the Mereb-Zalanbessa-Alitena front is in full view. Although Ethiopia always preferred the road of peace to regain its sovereignty over its occupied territories, the OAU peace process was not allowed to succeed due to the long-standing intransigent position of the Eritrean regime.

Only three weeks ago in Algiers the OAU-sponsored proximity talks were scuttled because Eritrea refused to enter into substantial discussions on the implementation of the OAU peace plan and, in particular, on the peaceful withdrawal of Eritrean forces from occupied Ethiopian territory.

Today, as the Ethiopian defence forces dislodge Eritrean invading troops from occupied territories, paying with the blood of sacrifice, the Asmara regime without shame declares that it is withdrawing its troops to comply with the wishes of OAU, and the world is expected to believe and partake in what has become a despicable farce.

The world should not be deceived by this outdated Eritrean tactic of laundering the facts and presenting a mask of peace when it has been humiliated on the battlefield. The charade of camouflaging a most aggressive and callous regime which until the last minute forced the needless shedding of blood of both Ethiopians and Eritreans because of its allergic reaction to the peace process cannot be allowed to continue unchallenged. There is a sense of déjà vu. We have seen all this before.

Ethiopia and the international community were witnesses to the sacrifices paid by the sons and daughters of this country to liberate the Badme area in February 1999. It took the Eritrean dictator 24 hours following his defeat to declare that he was withdrawing from the area and was ready to accept the OAU Framework Agreement. Having thus bought valuable time to regroup and reorganize the Eritrean regime continued to hold on to Ethiopian territory for more than 15 months.

History has repeated itself today. Defying OAU and the international community, the Isaias regime forced a war upon the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Again, it is the sons and daughters of Ethiopia that paid the price evicting an entrenched invader from the Mereb-Zalanbessa-Alitena front. Predictably, the Asmara regime declares that it is withdrawing from the territory from which it is being driven out, and expresses readiness for talks. It is clear that Eritrea is engaged in a ploy to buy time in order to save its battered army so that it could continue with its aggressive behaviour. Even at this moment, on the Mereb-Zalanbessa-Alitena front, fierce fighting is continuing in limited areas.

Ethiopia wishes to make it clear that even now large chunks of territory in the eastern and north-eastern part of Ethiopia — in the Afar Regional State — are still occupied by Eritrea. The war can only come to an end when Ethiopia has verified that Eritrea has removed its forces of occupation from all the remaining Ethiopian territory under their control.

At the same time, Ethiopia wishes to reiterate that it has no desire to remain in Eritrean territory that it holds temporarily for the purpose of military expediency.

Ethiopia also wishes to reaffirm its support and appreciation for the continuing efforts of OAU and its current Chairman, President Abdulaziz Boutiflika of Algeria, who visited Ethiopia this week. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has assured the current Chairman that Ethiopia's commitment to the peace process under OAU auspices is firm and principled.

25 May 2000
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Nations

S/2000/484

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2000

Original: English

Note verbale dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué from the Ministry of External Relations of Angola dated 23 May 2000 and requests that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

00-44978 (E) 250500

Annex to the note verbale dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué

1. The Angolan Government learnt that the Togo Government expelled 56 Angolan citizens associated with the UNITA military organization, in compliance with pertinent resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

2. This action taken by the Togolese Government clearly confirms the accounts given in the United Nations Sanctions Committee report on Angola, approved by Security Council resolution 1295 (2000) of 18 April 2000, that show the strong involvement of the Togolese Government and its multifaceted support of Mr. Savimbi's warfare in Angola.

3. The Angolan Government considers that this action, albeit a commendable gesture, is clearly insufficient for Togo's redemption considering the degree of its involvement in the Angolan conflict, and the considerable number of Angolan nationals associated with Mr. Savimbi who live in that country and who turned that country into a sanctuary for the Angolan subversive armed group.

4. In order to be credible vis-à-vis the international community, under the terms of resolution 1295 (2000), the expelling process should have been witnessed by the United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committee, and it should reveal the full identity of those involved, and mention their new host country and the circumstances in which they were accepted by such host country.

5. As a matter of fact, individuals such as Joaquim Ernesto Mulato, Valentim Sapalao Pena, Joao Baptista Vindes, Sebastiao Dembo Junior, Jose Dias Kalufele, Piedade Poeira, Jacinto Tunga, Eloy Sachitali Sakaita, and several other dozens of UNITA officials and close relatives of Mr. Savimbi's or of his associates, were merely withdrawn from Lomé to other locations far from the site where Togo is planning to host the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Summit meeting.

6. Given the signals of lack of good faith that this step represents, and the fact that there is continued contact and support between Togo and UNITA, the Angolan Government considers that the reasons stated for opposing the holding of the thirty-sixth OAU Summit meeting in Togo are valid and warranted.

7. The Angolan Government reaffirms its position that the change of venue of the OAU Summit meeting and the assumption of the chairmanship of the Organization of the African Unity by another country should not be seen as a punishment for the country in question, but a precautionary measure to try and avoid a dangerous precedent that might damage the image and the good reputation of our organization before the United Nations and the world.

Ministry of External Relations, Luanda, 23 May 2000

United Nations S/2000/485

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the recent events in Serbia issued on 22 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-45057 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the recent events in Serbia issued on 22 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union is deeply concerned at the latest developments in Serbia and strongly condemns the takeover of Belgrade's independent TV station, Studio B, on Wednesday, 17 May and the simultaneous actions against Radio B292, Radio Index, the daily BLIC, as well as TV Mladenovac.

This action, following continuing mass arrests and detention of opposition representatives and student leaders, heavy punishment of independent media, repression of journalists and obstacles to public rallies of the democratic forces, is the latest in a series of repressive actions by the Milosevic regime.

The Council expressed its concern over reports regarding further measures to be taken by the regime against the democratic opposition and civil society.

The increasing policy of repression by the regime is leading the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia into a position of greater distance from free and democratic Europe, increasing the isolation of the country and running against the wishes of the Serbian people.

Almost ten years after the dismantling of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains the only one among the south-east European States which still stands isolated from the mainstream of Europe. President Milosevic's regime alone is responsible for that situation.

The European Union has deployed great efforts to help the transition process of countries of the Western Balkans to democracy and a market economy, through substantial economic support, technical assistance, the offer of contractual relations and the development of enhanced political dialogue.

The European Union, together with the countries of the region, is also working in the framework of the Stability Pact to bring those countries closer to the prospect of integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures. Much has already been achieved. The European Union is looking forward to welcoming the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in this framework of cooperation after a successful democratic change in Serbia has been achieved.

The European Union's policy is not directed against the Serbian people, but against President Milosevic's regime, which is violating basic human rights in the most flagrant manner. The European Union has no quarrel with the Serbian people. This is why the European Union is providing substantial humanitarian assistance, developing a comprehensive dialogue with civil society and taking measures to support democracy and the independent media in Serbia.

United Nations S/2000/486

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the Peace Implementation Conference issued on 22 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-45063 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Peace Implementation Conference issued on 22 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

In view of the Ministerial meeting of the Peace Implementation Conference for Bosnia and Herzegovina, taking place on 23 and 24 May 2000, the European Union recalled its full commitment to the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this regard, it commended the remarkable work accomplished in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the High Representative and his staff, and reiterated its entire support to their action.

The European Union took note that approaching the fifth year after Dayton substantial progress had been made. The security situation had stabilized. Major reconstruction had been completed. Minority returns were accelerating. The Brcko District was established and functioning. Successive elections had initiated a trend towards growing political pluralism. Bosnia and Herzegovina was accepted as a nation State. There was a new mood across Bosnia and Herzegovina as we move into the new millennium. The people of Croatia had shown the way by voting for peace, freedom and justice. There was a movement towards true "ownership" by the people and by civil society, with democratic freedom and economic transparency finally taking root.

However, much more could have been achieved: political obstruction and the pursuit of narrow ethnic agendas by some, was holding the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina back from reaping the full economic and democratic benefits the Dayton/Paris Accords held out to them. The European Union supports the High Representative in the use of his full powers to ensure implementation of the Peace Accords, including the removal of those obstructing economic reforms.

The programme presented, if agreed to by the Conference, would empower the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to seize the opportunities open to those in a modern European State, and to choose the path of prosperity and democratic freedoms.

Implementing the Dayton/Paris Accords meant:

- Accelerating economic reform to avoid economic collapse. Breaking the stranglehold of political parties on economic and commercial life. Simplifying regulations to free Bosnia and Herzegovina's entrepreneurs. Ensuring that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have the telecommunications, power and banking services they need, and can join the new generation of internet technology;
- Developing effective and democratic state institutions based on a professional civil service, and creating state-level regulatory bodies to implement the provisions under the Dayton Constitution in order for Bosnia and Herzegovina to serve the interest of its own people;

- Fighting corruption and organized crime, as well as increasing transparency and accountability, including breaking the links between political parties and business;

- Establishing an independent and impartial judiciary that will ensure the rule of law;

- Refugees returning to their homes in an accelerated and self-sustaining process;

- Bringing persons indicted for war crimes who are still at large to justice;

- Completing the transformation of media and public broadcasting and ensuring that the media are allowed to operate without intimidation and political interference;

- Reducing military expenditure and embarking on fundamental reconstructing of the Entity Armed Forces based on the financial viability and defence needs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- Playing a positive role in the Stability Pact process.

Implementing the Dayton/Paris Accords, through political, social and economic reforms, would pave the way for the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to join the other States of south-eastern Europe in the European Union Stabilization and Association process.

United Nations S/2000/487

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on Guinea-Bissau issued on 19 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-45069 (E) 260500 260500

Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Guinea-Bissau issued on 19 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union expresses its concern at the ongoing climate of tension and insecurity in Guinea-Bissau and at reports of indiscipline in some sectors of the armed forces.

The European Union urges all in Guinea-Bissau, in particular the military, to continue to take forward the positive developments of last year, with the holding of fair, free and democratic elections which led to a democratic transition of power.

The European Union stresses the need for a full return to civil rule, effective functioning of democratic institutions and a peaceful environment as prerequisites for the continuation of foreign investments, and the financial and economic aid that the country urgently needs.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

United Nations A/54/883–S/2000/488

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
25 May 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43 and 44
The situation in the Middle East
Question of Palestine

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the Middle East peace process issued on 22 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

00-45051 (E) 250500 250500

Annex to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement on the Middle East peace process issued on 22 May 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union considers that a real opportunity exists to attain a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on the basic principles established within the framework of Madrid. The European Union remains ready to work with the parties to this end.

The European Union deplores the recent escalation of tension and violence that has taken place in the Occupied Territories. The European Union urges all parties concerned to exercise restraint and appeals to Israel and the Palestinian Authority to intensify their efforts with a view to urgently concluding the Framework Agreement foreseen in the Sharm-el-Sheikh Memorandum of September 1999 and the Permanent Status negotiations within the agreed time-frame and with the courage and spirit of compromise that they demand. The European Union welcomes the Israeli decision to transfer Abu Dis, Ayzariyah and Suwahirah to full Palestinian control.

The European Union appeals to the parties to refrain from unilateral acts that may prejudge the final negotiated agreements. In this context the European Union expresses particular concern about renewed Israeli settlement activity and road building, which is contrary to international law and which further complicates the search for solutions. A solution in full conformity with agreement signed regarding Palestinian prisoners detained by Israel should be found.

Reiterating the importance of the Syrian and Lebanese Tracks for a comprehensive solution in the region, the European Union urges the parties to stay engaged with a view to early resumption of negotiations.

Pending a comprehensive solution, the European Union welcomes Israel's decision to withdraw from southern Lebanon in full accordance with United Nations Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and expresses the hope that this move will facilitate reconciliation and rehabilitation in the region. The European Union expresses full support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions. The European Union urges all sides to fully cooperate with the United Nations to this end. In this context, the European Union emphasizes that the safety of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and other international personnel on the ground must be respected by all sides at all times.

United Nations S/2000/489

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 23 March to 22 April 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-45218 (E) 260500

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 March-22 April), there were just over 46,000 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops deployed in theatre, with no major deployment changes since the last report, although one country deployed additional troops into Kosovo for employment in Multinational Brigade (MNB)(North) in the vicinity of Mitrovica. On 18 April Lieutenant General Juan Ortuño assumed command of KFOR from the outgoing commander General Klaus Reinhardt.

Security

2. During this period, the overall level of violence in the province remained of concern. The situation in Mitrovica was calmer than before, owing in part to the incremental establishment of the confidence zone, and to the opening of a footbridge from the south bank over the River Ibar to the so-called Three Towers area, a multi-ethnic residential area. Elsewhere ethnic pressure on Kosovo Serbs persisted, particularly in central Kosovo, although northern Kosovo and the Strpce enclave remained free of significant violence. Kosovo Serbs from the region of Lipljan in MNB(Centre) and Vitina in MNB(East) said they would no longer accept threats or harassment without reacting.

3. KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives during house searches and at traffic control checkpoints. Other incidents across the province involved arson attacks on outbuildings or mostly uninhabited houses, explosions, grenade attacks, isolated shootings, armed robberies, arrests for illegal possession of arms and drugs, and curfew violations. The most serious incidents included the following. On 22 March in MNB(North) a railway bridge 10 kilometres north of Mitrovica was partially destroyed in an explosion, and in another incident mines were found close to a road traffic bridge and defused in time. On 13 April a cordon and search operation in Mitrovica in MNB(North) resulted in the arrest of seven individuals after the confiscation of 10 rifles, 2 pistols, 19 magazines, 11 hand grenades and 4 bayonets.

4. On 19 April, KFOR began destroying confiscated weapons. This new programme does not affect weapons turned in by the KLA as part of their undertaking.

5. During the period, KFOR took a number of steps to increase control over the internal boundary of the province, particularly in order to prevent arms and potential insurgents crossing from Kosovo into southern Serbia. On 14 April a large amount of weapons and explosives were seized from a truck believed to be travelling from Pristina in the direction of the Presevo Valley. Two Kosovo Albanians were detained in this incident.

6. Some acts of violence were committed against KFOR over the reporting period. On three occasions KFOR was fired at — twice in MNB(Central) and once in MNB(East). In two other incidents, both in MNB(Central), KFOR used non-lethal devices and weapons to control situations involving angry crowds — a Kosovo Serb was shot in the leg during one incident.

Illegal border activity

7. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders, and recognized crossing points. KFOR has tightened control of the provincial borders and boundaries to prevent extremists based in Kosovo from operating elsewhere. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the ground safety zone have been closed. Although these measures generally appear to have been effective, KFOR noted a number of incidents relating to illegal border crossings. In particular, at the border crossing point of Morina South, there were at least 15 incidents involving about 34 persons who were prevented from illegally crossing the border after warning shots were fired. At the same time, there were eight incidents of successful entry into either Kosovo or Albania, involving about 26 persons. KFOR detained about 50 persons at the border crossing points of Morina South, Krusevo, Dragas, Globocica and Vrbnica in around 20 incidents, and expelled five persons to Albania after identity checks and confiscation of ammunition.

8. Reporting indicates that groups of armed men continue to prepare to conduct paramilitary activities in and near Dobrosin in the ground safety zone. Finally, KFOR destroyed two separate quantities of explosives found near the border crossing point of Prusit,

confiscated munitions from an abandoned vehicle, and observed one suspected smuggling incident.

Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) — arms embargo

9. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures, no violations of resolution 1160 (1998) have been reported.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

10. The Kosovo Protection Corps continued to work closely with KFOR and the police component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). There have been four cases of major non-compliance reported during this period. The individuals involved have been suspended for one month pending police investigations, bringing the number of Kosovo Protection Corps personnel suspended to nine.

11. UNMIK and KFOR continued to ensure adherence of the Kosovo Protection Corps to its civilian mandate. Phase 2 of the establishment of the Corps continues to make progress. The Corp leadership has identified 3,052 members to be retained for full-time service. Another opportunity will be provided in May to allow about 400 members who are entitled to register to do so. Registration would then cease for the rest of the year. Recruitment to fill minority positions continues to be difficult, with the total number of minorities enrolled in the Kosovo Protection Corps remaining at around 60 persons.

12. With regard to Kosovo Protection Corps work projects, KFOR field visits noted approximately 300 Corps members involved in projects, with an estimated additional 1,000 members due to become involved during the month of May. UNMIK has been encouraging local administrators to identify projects and will be seeking sponsors.

13. The Army (VJ) and security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were generally compliant with the terms of the military technical agreement and cooperative in their dealings with KFOR. VJ units continued to conduct seasonal training in southern Serbia, near the ground safety zone.

Cooperation with international organizations

14. KFOR continued to provide humanitarian assistance to international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout Kosovo on a daily basis as well as on request, with a focus on the distribution of stoves, firewood, fuel, water, shelter kits and construction materials. KFOR troops also supported the food distribution efforts of international organizations, and protected and escorted refugees and internally displaced persons. KFOR supported non-governmental organizations in providing humanitarian assistance to remote and isolated minorities, and in assisting in a spring/summer housing and school reconstruction programme.

15. As at 22 April, the UNMIK police force numbered 3,132, including 207 border police and 374 in special police units. The first special (riot) police company which arrived during the last reporting period has been operational in Mitrovica since 10 April.

16. KFOR continued to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration. Of note was the agreement by the Gracanica-based Serb National Council to send a representative as an observer to the Interim Administrative Council. The major Kosovo political parties are working together in the Kosovo-UNMIK Joint Interim Administrative Structure. Of the 20 administrative departments in the planned Structure, only seven were operational: Local Administration, Health and Social Welfare, Education and Science, Public Services, Justice, Central Fiscal Authority, and Reconstruction.

17. At the provincial level, the Kosovo Transitional Council continued to meet regularly to carry out its duties, and invited representatives of civil society, political parties, religious groups and national communities to participate. The Serb National Council, excluding the Serb National Council of Mitrovica, has agreed that four representatives will participate in the Kosovo Transitional Council as observers for an initial period of three months. The Kosovo Transitional Council continued to underline its commitment to work towards a united Kosovo where all national communities were able to stay and lead a normal and peaceful life.

18. At the district level, KFOR continued to work closely with the appointed civil administrators, and has provided personnel as liaison with the staffs of UNMIK civil administration officers in each district. Local

governments have been established in almost all of the 30 municipalities.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

19. From July 1999 to 20 April 2000 the refugee repatriation programme organized by the International Office of Migration and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted 139,000 voluntary returns, primarily from third countries. The current return rate is estimated at 6,000 refugees per month, with about 150,000 refugees expected to return to Kosovo this year.

20. It is estimated that there are 204,000 internally displaced persons in Serbia and over 30,000 in Montenegro. KFOR, UNMIK, UNHCR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe continued to work closely together to improve conditions for the Serb minorities in Orahovac, Velika Hoca and Djakovica.

Outlook

21. Although tension is expected to remain high in some parts of Kosovo, KFOR continues to work in close coordination with UNMIK to promote and maintain security and stability in the province.

United Nations S/2000/490

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a protest at the recent visit of the President of the Republic of Albania to Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, without prior agreement by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The visit and its overall thrust have been a function of support to terrorism, secession and organized crime in Kosovo and Metohija. It is no surprise that the visit brought another wave of violence and terror against Serbs and other non-Albanians in its train.

According to media reports, the Albanian President "emphasized" in his meetings with the representatives of the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) that the KLA and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) "beat the Serbs" and that in two years Kosovo and Metohija would be granted independence and called upon Kosovo and Metohija Albanians to work towards the creation of "Greater Albania" that, in addition to this Serbian province and Albania, would include parts of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Montenegro and Macedonia. The crusade of the Albanian President is very much in line with the overall policy of the Republic of Albania of support for secessionists in Kosovo and Metohija which is not of recent date. As early as 1991, Albania was the only country in Europe to recognize the "Republic of Kosovo" proclaimed by ethnic Albanian separatists in this Serbian province.

The illegal visit of the highest-ranking official of the Republic of Albania to a part of the sovereign territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia without the prior agreement of its Government is yet another negative precedent contrary to international law and the principles of communication among States. It belongs among a series of recent incidents of flagrant violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, expressly guaranteeing that sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) have not prevented this illegal act from taking place. In failing to do that, they have aligned themselves with, and have given a United Nations nod of approval to, those who commit daily terror and crimes against the Serbs and other non-Albanians.

00-45285 (E) 300500

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to condemn the practice of illegal visits to Kosovo and Metohija and to reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the obligation to implement Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) fully and consistently.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/491

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, the Appeal of the Delegation of Expatriate Serbs Living in Europe, the United States and Australia relative to Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, addressed on the occasion of the visit of the Delegation to this Serbian province on 24 May 2000.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-45254 (E) 300500

Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Appeal of the Delegation of Expatriate Serbs Living in Europe, the United States and Australia addressed to the Province of Kosovo and Metohija (Kosovska Mitrovica, 24 May 2000)

On behalf of 4 million expatriate Serbs we demand:

- release of Serbs detained in the Kosovska Mitrovica prison for months without trial;
- tracing and freeing of thousands of Serbs abducted by the terrorist so-called "KLA" since the deployment of UNMIK and KFOR;
- disarming, without delay, of the terrorist "KLA" and its disbanding;
- cessation of terrorism and the ethnic cleansing of Serbs, Muslims, Roma, Turks, Goranci and other non-Albanian population in general;
- free movement, safety of the population and public order and peace, as well as human rights according to international standards;
- protection of religious and Christian cultural monuments against terrorists and vandals;
- free and safe return of the expelled;
- respect for the sovereignty and integrity of Serbia and implementation of Security Council resolution 1244, or withdrawal of UNMIK and KFOR and return of the Yugoslav Army and Serbian police; and
- establishment of responsibility for the killing of more than 1,000 Serbs, Muslims, Roma, Goranci, Turks and other non-Albanians since the deployment of UNMIK and KFOR.

United Nations S/2000/492

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué concerning Sierra Leone issued at Addis Ababa on 23 May 2000 by the sixty-sixth ordinary session of the central organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held at the ambassadorial level.

I should be grateful if you would have the text circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as an official Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45266 (E) 260500 260500

Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: English]

Communiqué of the sixty-sixth Ordinary Session of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, at Ambassadorial Level on the Developments in Sierra Leone

The Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution held its sixty-sixth Session at Ambassadorial Level on Tuesday, 23 May 2000, in Addis Ababa, to discuss the developments in Sierra Leone.

The Session was held under the Chairmanship of Mr. Emmanuel Mandoume-Nze, Ambassador of Gabon to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to OAU.

The Central Organ:

Having considered the situation in Sierra Leone, particularly, the most recent developments relating to the peace process;

Having also heard the statement of Mr. Alhaji Fode M. Dabor, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to OAU;

1. *Expresses* deep concern over the recent developments in Sierra Leone, which have undermined the peace process in that country;

2. *Condemns* unequivocally, the mindless actions of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), in taking hostage and killing of the personnel of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and calls for their immediate and unconditional release. In addition, it calls for the return of all equipment, arms and ammunition seized from them, including those earlier taken from the Guinean contingent;

3. *Deplores* the recent conduct of the RUF as a serious setback to the implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement and a threat to the peace, security and stability of Sierra Leone in particular and the region as a whole. It warned the RUF leadership that it would continue to undermine the peace process in that country;

4. *Calls* upon the RUF to release all the civilian hostages, including in particular, women and children still held by them as required by the Lomé Peace Agreement;

5. *Takes note* of the Final Communiqué of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State Members of Joint Implementation Committee of the Lomé Peace Agreement on Sierra Leone, held in Abuja, Nigeria on 9 May 2000. In particular, it welcomes the recommendation of the Ministers of Defence and Chiefs of Defence Staff of ECOWAS, to send an additional 3,000 troops to Sierra Leone and calls on the international community to facilitate the rapid deployment of those troops;

6. *Expresses* its appreciation to Dahkpanah Mr. Charles Ghankey Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia, for the efforts he has personally deployed to

secure the release of some of the UNAMSIL personnel, held hostage by the RUF and encourages him to continue with those efforts until all the hostages are released;

7. *Commends* the current Chairman of ECOWAS President Alpha Oumar Konare and the leaders of the ECOWAS Region for their steadfast support for the Government of Sierra Leone and encourages them to continue in their efforts until lasting peace is restored to the country;

8. *Pays homage* to the memory of all those who have lost their lives in trying to restore peace in Sierra Leone and empathizes with the surviving victims of RUF atrocities;

9. *Calls* for the transformation of UNAMSIL's mandate from peacekeeping to peace enforcement and for the provision of adequate logistical support to enable it to carry out the said mandate efficiently and effectively;

10. *Demands* the immediate and scrupulous implementation of the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement by the RUF, particularly, those provisions relating to the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programme;

11. *Expresses* support for the proposals of the United Nations Secretary-General to broaden the sanctions against the RUF, including measures to counter the illegal trade in diamonds from Sierra Leone and appeals to the United Nations Security Council to give urgent effect to them;

12. *Appeals* to the international community to extend humanitarian assistance to the victims of the conflicts in Sierra Leone.

Addis Ababa, 23 May 2000

United Nations S/2000/493

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued on 24 May 2000 at Algiers by the Organization of African Unity concerning the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have it circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as an official Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45248 (E) 260500 260500

Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué of the Organization of African Unity on the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

At the initiative of Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), an OAU delegation led by Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, personal envoy of the current Chairman, visited Addis Ababa and Asmara from 21 to 24 May 2000.

This mission falls within the purview of the intense efforts made by the current Chairman and particularly since the adjournment of the Algiers Proximity Talks and the resumption of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, efforts aimed at putting an immediate end to the fighting and bringing back quickly the two parties to the negotiating table for the finalization of consolidated Technical Arrangements and consequently the implementation of the Framework Agreement and the Modalities for the peaceful and definitive resolution of the border dispute between the two parties.

In Addis Ababa, the OAU delegation was received by Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia. In Asmara, and in the absence of the Head of State from the capital, the delegation held talks with a delegation of senior officials led by Mr. Woldensae, Minister of Foreign Affairs and including the Director of the Cabinet and other senior advisers of the Head of State. Furthermore, and throughout this mission, the personal envoy held close consultation with Salim Ahmed Salim, OAU Secretary-General.

To each of the two parties, the personal envoy reiterated the appeal of the current Chairman for an immediate cessation of the fighting and the speedy resumption of the Proximity Talks. The personal envoy stressed that this appeal was also repeated by the international community and particularly by the United Nations Security Council.

Eritrea stated its readiness to respond immediately and favourably to the two-point appeal of the current Chairman of OAU, namely the immediate cessation of the fighting and the resumption of the Proximity Talks.

On its part, Ethiopia stated that it was ready for an immediate resumption of the Proximity Talks, but considered, however, that the fighting could not stop before the restoration of the territorial status quo prevailing at 6 May 1998.

At the same time and beyond this fundamental divergence between the two parties, the delegation noted that:

1. Ethiopia stated solemnly that it had no territorial ambitions in Eritrea;

2. Each of the two parties stated that it was still committed to the Framework Agreement and the Modalities which they had accepted and which had been unanimously endorsed by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Algiers;

3. Each of the two parties restated its commitment to the redeployment of its troops to the line of 6 May 1998 and, that, in conformity with the Modalities, which they had mutually accepted;

4. Finally, each of the two parties committed itself to resolving the territorial dispute on the basis of the relevant colonial treaties and the applicable international law, through delimitation and demarcation with the assistance of the Cartographic Unit of the United Nations and, if necessary, through arbitration.

In the face of this situation, OAU strongly deplores that its appeals for an immediate end to the fighting have not yet been heeded, while the necessary elements for a peaceful, fair and definitive resolution of this conflict and particularly the border dispute, have already been defined by the Organization, accepted by the two parties and endorsed by the international community as a whole.

At the same time, OAU expresses its deep concern about the thousands of deaths already caused by the resumption of fighting on 12 May 2000, a terrible situation to which should be added the suffering and displacement of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian victims of this fratricidal conflict. In addition, the continuation of this armed conflict is likely to undermine the stability and security of the entire subregion.

This is why OAU reiterated its urgent appeal for an immediate end to the fighting and the resumption of peace negotiations.

Furthermore, and with the aim of initiating the de-escalation of this conflict and arrive at its cessation.

Firstly, OAU requests Ethiopia and Eritrea to immediately implement its decision to carry out this redeployment of their respective forces to the positions they controlled prior to 6 May 1998, in conformity with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Modalities without prejudging the final status of the territories concerned, which will be determined at the end of the delimitations and demarcation process.

Secondly, and to this end, OAU requests Eritrea to announce immediately its decision to carry out this redeployment in conformity with paragraph 1 of the Modalities and to implement it immediately.

Thirdly, and in the same spirit, OAU requests Ethiopia to announce immediately after Eritrea, its decision to redeploy its forces according to paragraph 2 of the Modalities, it being understood that this deployment must concern all the positions taken since 6 February 1999 and not under Ethiopian control before 6 May 1998.

Fourthly, OAU takes note of the statement made by Ethiopia according to which it has no claim on the territory of Eritrea and requests it to reaffirm it publicly and officially.

Fifthly, OAU takes note of the commitment of Ethiopia and Eritrea to implement the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, which they had mutually accepted, and particularly to resolve their border dispute in conformity with the two aforementioned documents.

Sixthly, OAU takes note of the readiness of the two parties to finalize quickly the consolidated Technical Arrangements, then proceed to the signature of the

Framework Agreement, Modalities and consolidated Technical Arrangements, to establish a formal cessation of hostilities and implement faithfully all the three documents constituting the peaceful and definitive settlement plan for the resolution of the conflict.

Seventhly, on behalf of the current Chairman of OAU, the personal envoy invites the two parties to send their delegations to Algiers for the resumption of the Proximity Talks, immediately after the publication of the statements of each party as stated in paragraphs "secondly" and "thirdly" above.

OAU hopes that this appeal will be heeded by each of the two parties and that wisdom will prevail in the interest of the two brotherly and neighbouring peoples. It also hopes that the international community will support this effort aimed at stopping the fighting in this bloody conflict and opening the way for the full implementation of the peace plan proposed by OAU, accepted by the two parties and supported by the entire international community.

Algiers and Addis Ababa
24 May 2000

United Nations S/2000/494

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué of the third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee for the Lomé Peace Agreement, held at Freetown on 13 May 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Moctar **Ouane**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45279 (E) 260500 260500

Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Economic Community of West African States

Third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee for the Lomé Peace Agreement

Freetown, 13 May 2000

Final communiqué

1. The third meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee for the Lomé Peace Agreement was held in Freetown on 13 May 2000. The meeting was held in closed session.

2. The meeting was attended by the following ECOWAS member States of the Joint Implementation Committee:

Republic of Ghana
Republic of Guinea
Republic of Liberia
Republic of Mali (ECOWAS Chairman)
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Republic of Sierra Leone

3. Other members of the Joint Implementation Committee and other international supporters for the implementation of the Agreement present at the meeting were:

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Organization of African Unity
United Nations
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

4. The Armed Forces Revolutionary Council of Sierra Leone (AFRC) was also present.

5. The Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was absent at the meeting.

6. The meeting was held in the spirit of the reaffirmation of the sanctity of the Lomé Peace Agreement and the need to put the peace process back on track following the dramatic turn of events which posed a serious threat to the implementation of the Agreement.

7. The meeting listened to briefings on the current situation by the representative of the Government of Sierra Leone and Johnny Paul Koroma, AFRC Leader and Chairman of the Committee for the Consolidation of Peace.

8. Oluyemi Adeniji, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in Sierra Leone also briefed the meeting.

9. Lansaria Kouyate, ECOWAS Executive Secretary provided the meeting with the highlights of the Mini Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, held in Abuja on 9 May 2000.

10. The meeting strongly condemned the taking of United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) personnel hostages by the RUF and called for their unconditional release in accordance with the stance taken by the Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Abuja on 9 May 2000.

11. The meeting also strongly condemned the murder, in cold blood, of some UNAMSIL personnel, and of innocent and unarmed civilians by the RUF.

12. The meeting expressed its support for the continuation of the two-track approach combining dialogue with the military option as provided by the Lomé Peace Agreement.

13. The meeting reaffirmed its support for the Lomé Peace Agreement and called on the RUF to commit itself to its implementation, remove all roadblocks allow, unhindered access to UNAMSIL to all areas under its control and resume fully the disarmament programme. On the specific issue of disarmament, the meeting insisted that all children should immediately be disarmed and should no longer be recruited into the armies of any of the parties to the conflict.

14. The meeting agreed that there was an urgent need to provide UNAMSIL with the requisite manpower, equipment and the legal capacity to enforce the peace in Sierra Leone.

15. The meeting expressed its full support for the mandate given by ECOWAS to President Charles Taylor of Liberia to involve himself personally to ensure the release of all hostages and their equipment and the resumption of implementation of the Lomé Peace Agreement.

16. The meeting expressed its support of the outcome of the Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government of the Committee on Sierra Leone held in Abuja on 9 May 2000, in particular, the deployment of ECOMOG either within UNAMSIL or on its own.

17. Strongly believing in the sanctity of the Lomé Peace Agreement, the meeting called for the immediate release of all detained RUF representatives in the Government of National Unity who have demonstrated their commitment to the Peace Agreement.

18. The meeting expressed is sincere gratitude to Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Government and people of Sierra Leone for the facilities provided that ensured the success of the meeting.

Done at Freetown, this 13th day of May 2000.

United Nations A/54/886-S/2000/495

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000
English
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General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 31
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued today by the office of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) concerning the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

I should be grateful if you would have it issued as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah **Baali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45260 (E) 260500 260500

Annex to the identical letters dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué from the office of the current Chairman of OAU concerning the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

On 24 May 2000, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, current Chairman of OAU, visited the region of the Horn of Africa in the context of the efforts which are being made by OAU for a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

This direct involvement of the current Chairman demonstrates the concern of the whole of Africa about the resumption of fighting between the two parties and especially the heavy casualties as well as the sufferings inflicted on hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika visited Addis Ababa and Asmara between 24 and 26 May 2000. During his stay, he had talks with Mr. Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and Mr. Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea.

These talks with the leaders of both parties enabled the current Chairman to take note of the commitment of Ethiopia and Eritrea:

1. To redeploy their respective forces to the positions held prior to 6 May 1998 in the case of Eritrea and prior to 6 February 1999 in the case of Ethiopia, in conformity with the Modalities, and without prejudice to the final status of the territories concerned, which will be determined at the end of the delimitation-demarcation process.

2. To resolve their border dispute in conformity with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities, on the basis of the relevant colonial treaties and applicable international law, through delimitation and demarcation, with the assistance of the United Nations Cartographic Unit and, if necessary, through arbitration.

3. To pursue negotiations under the auspices of OAU with a view to finalizing the Consolidated Technical Arrangements and thus achieving the implementation of the peace plan constituted by the Framework Agreement, the Modalities and the Consolidated Technical Arrangements.

4. The current Chairman called on the two parties to resume the proximity talks in Algiers on 29 May 2000. Eritrea promptly agreed to that.

The current Chairman of OAU welcomed the points of agreement between the two parties.

The current Chairman also welcomed the decision taken by Eritrea to withdraw from the Zalambesa zone as of 25 May 2000 at 0000 hours as well as the commitment given to him by President Isaias Afwerki that the Eritrean forces will withdraw from Bada and Burrie. This last point has been formalized by a written commitment duly signed by President Isaias Afwerki.

The current Chairman considers that these initiatives taken by Eritrea within the framework of the Modalities will lead to a rapid cessation of fighting between the two parties.

Lastly, he considers that the resumption of the proximity talks in Algiers, as accepted in principle by the two parties, should effectively establish an end to the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and should be an opportunity to finalize the peace plan and thus proceed to its implementation through a peaceful, just and lasting solution of the conflict between the two brotherly and neighbouring countries.

At the same time, Mr. Ahmed Ouyahia, Special Envoy of the current Chairman, has been sent immediately to Addis Ababa to inform Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of the Eritrean party's acceptance of the Ethiopian demand in respect of:

- The sovereign decision of Eritrea to withdraw from Bada and Burrie, without prejudice to the rights of each of the parties which emerge from the settlement of the border dispute in conformity with the Framework Agreement and the Modalities.
- Mr. Ouyahia will also confirm to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi Eritrea's agreement to go to Algiers on 29 May 2000 to resume the proximity talks.

United Nations S/2000/496

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 May 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus

(for the period from 30 November 1999 to 31 May 2000)

I. Introduction

1. The present report on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus covers developments from 30 November 1999 to 31 May 2000 and brings up to date the record of the activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) pursuant to Security Council resolution 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and subsequent Security Council resolutions, most recently resolution 1283 (1999) of 15 December 1999.

II. Activities of the Force

A. Maintenance of the ceasefire and the military status quo

2. The situation along the ceasefire lines has remained stable, with a significant reduction in the overall number of incidents compared with the previous reporting period.

3. Occasional threats against United Nations soldiers on patrol involving the cocking and aiming of weapons by both opposing forces remained a concern. Local restrictions by the National Guard on the freedom of movement of the United Nations in the area of the Kokkina pocket and Kato Pyrgos at the western end of the buffer zone have impeded access to a number of United Nations observation posts. Efforts continue to have these restrictions removed.

4. Air violations of the United Nations buffer zone increased. Nine overflights by Turkish military aircraft and two by civilian aircraft from the north were recorded, as were six overflights by aircraft of the National Guard and Cyprus police and eleven by civilian aircraft from the south. On 4 April, a number of National Guard personnel in military vehicles, including a flagged staff car, were observed in the buffer zone at Athienou. UNFICYP protested these violations.

5. The National Guard's annual spring exercise, which also involved Greek troops, took place between 16 and 18 May.

6. UNFICYP continued to monitor the fenced area in Varosha, for which the Turkish forces are responsible. No significant changes were observed.

B. Restoration of normal conditions and humanitarian functions

7. Contacts between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots on the island increased. Most of them occurred in events arranged with the help of UNFICYP at the former Ledra Palace Hotel in Nicosia and in Pyla, both in the United Nations buffer zone. These events included professional conferences, trade union meetings, a media forum, women's gatherings, youth events and televised discussions among Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot journalists. For the first time in several years, two meetings took place between political party representatives from both sides.

00-45181 (E) 300500

8. UNFICYP continued to support civilian activities in the buffer zone, including farming, industry and recreational activities, subject to security concerns. Regular contacts and cooperation continued with both sides in efforts to resolve questions concerning movement and access, shared resources such as water, proposed works in the buffer zone and others. UNFICYP continued to maintain liaison with the police on both sides.

9. UNFICYP continued to carry out humanitarian tasks in respect of the 427 Greek Cypriots and 159 Maronites currently living in the northern part of the island and maintained contact with those Turkish Cypriots in the southern part who have made themselves known to UNFICYP. On 5 May the Turkish Cypriot authorities announced measures to ease restrictions affecting movement between the two sides, which they had instituted in February 1998. The main changes are the reduction of fees levied in connection with crossings from 15 pounds sterling per adult per visit to 1 pound sterling, the extension of visits to the north for a "reasonable period" and the lifting of the age limit for Greek Cypriot students who wish to visit their parents or grandparents in the north. The requirement to apply for permission in advance remained in effect. UNFICYP is monitoring the application of the new regulations.

10. UNFICYP helped to arrange several large pilgrimages of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to Apostolos Andreas monastery in the north and the Hala Sultan mosque in the south respectively.

III. Missing persons

11. After an interruption of more than three years, the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus held its one hundred eighty-third session, from November 1999 to January 2000, and discussed the possibility of resuming its investigative work.

12. Following the untimely death of Ambassador Jean-Pierre Ritter on 17 January 2000, the United Nations has been in touch with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross in connection with the selection of a new third member. However, before proceeding to a new appointment, it would be important to ensure that the obstacles that have impeded the investigative work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus had been removed and that both sides had shown a genuine commitment to reaching a consensus for the fulfilment of the five modalities contained in the letter of the Secretary-General of 4 December 1996.

IV. Economic and social activities of the United Nations system

13. The United Nations Development Programme, through the United Nations Office for Project Services, continued to implement its programme aimed at promoting goodwill by encouraging the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities to work together in the preparation and implementation of projects in areas of mutual concern, notably public health, environment, sanitation, water, urban renovation, preservation of cultural heritage, natural resources and education.

V. Mission of good offices of the Secretary-General

14. In response to my invitation, Glafcos Clerides and Rauf Denktash agreed to start proximity talks in New York on 3 December 1999 in order to prepare the ground for meaningful negotiations leading to a comprehensive settlement. The first round of talks, which lasted until 14 December 1999, was followed by a second round in Geneva, from 31 January to 8 February 2000. In the course of a trip to the island last March, my Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alvaro de Soto, met separately with the two leaders. He also paid a visit to Ankara and Athens in connection with the proximity talks. A third round, scheduled for 23 May in New York, was put off because of Mr. Clerides' health. Both leaders have accepted my invitation to meet again in Geneva starting on 5 July.

VI. Organizational matters

15. As at May 2000, UNFICYP comprised 1,208 troops and 33 civilian police. The military personnel are from Argentina (409), Austria (239), Canada (2), Finland (11), Hungary (111), Slovenia (29), the Netherlands (99), Ireland (4) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (304). The Argentine contingent includes 8 soldiers, from Bolivia (2), Brazil (2), Paraguay (1) and Uruguay (3). The

civilian police are provided by Australia (20) and Ireland (13). In addition, UNFICYP had 224 civilian staff, of whom 43 were recruited internationally and 181 locally.

16. Mr. de Soto continued as my Special Adviser on Cyprus. James Holger remains the Acting Special Representative and Chief of Mission until 31 May 2000. I have appointed Zbigniew Wlosowicz as his replacement, with effect from June 2000. Major General Victory Rana was appointed as Force Commander on 16 December 1999, replacing Major General Evergisto de Vergara, who relinquished his post on 15 December.

VII. Financial aspects

17. The General Assembly, by its resolution 53/231 of 8 June 1999, appropriated an amount of $45,630,927 gross for the maintenance of UNFICYP for the 12-month period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. This amount includes the pledged voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force, equivalent to $14,630,810, from the Government of Cyprus and the annual pledge of $6.5 million from the Government of Greece.

18. The proposed budget for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/54/729) is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Subject to the Assembly's decision, the cost of maintaining UNFICYP at its current authorized strength is estimated at $41 million gross for the period beginning on 1 July 2000. That amount is inclusive of the pledged voluntary contributions of one third of the cost of the Force from the Government of Cyprus and of the $6.5 million contributed annually by the Government of Greece. Therefore, should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 15 June 2000, the cost of maintaining the Force would be limited to the amount indicated above.

19. As at 30 April 2000, unpaid assessments to the Special Account for UNFICYP from 16 June 1993 to 15 June 2000 amounted to $17.6 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $2,109.7 million.

VIII. Observations

20. During the past six months, the situation along the ceasefire lines has remained stable. UNFICYP has continued to carry out its mandated tasks with the cooperation of both sides. Two positive developments are worth noting. One is the increase in contacts between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, which are an important factor in improving the political climate on the island. The other development is the welcome decision by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to lift unnecessarily onerous measures affecting visits to the Greek Cypriots and Maronites in the north.

21. Under the current circumstances, the presence of UNFICYP on the island remains indispensable for the maintenance of the ceasefire between the two sides. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 15 December 2000. I am consulting the parties concerned on the matter and shall report to the Council as soon as the consultations have been completed.

22. In conclusion, I wish to express appreciation for the valuable contributions of my Special Adviser on Cyprus, Mr. de Soto, and the Acting Special Representative and Chief of Mission, Mr. Holger. I also wish to pay tribute to the Force Commander, Major General Rana, and to the men and women serving in UNFICYP for the efficiency and dedication with which they have discharged the responsibilities entrusted to them by the Security Council. I would also like to record my deep appreciation for Ambassador Ritter's personal commitment and dedication in carrying out his mandate as third member of the Committee of Missing Persons until his death on 17 January 2000.

وزع قوة الأمم المتحدة لحفظ السلم في قبرص في حزيران/يونيه ٢٠٠٠

2000 年 6 月的联塞部队部署

UNFICYP DEPLOYMENT AS OF JUNE 2000

DÉPLOIEMENT DE L'UNFICYP AU MOIS DE JUIN 2000

ДИСЛОКАЦИЯ ВСООНК НА ИЮНЬ 2000

DESPLIEGUE DE LA UNFICYP EN JUNIO DE 2000

Map No. 2930 Rev. 41 UNITED NATIONS
June 2000

Department of Public Information
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2000/496/Corr.1

Security Council

Distr.: General
8 June 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus

(for the period from 30 November 1999 to 31 May 2000)

Corrigendum

1. **Paragraph 4**

   The paragraph should read

   4. Air violations of the United Nations buffer zone by Turkish military and civilian aircraft increased. Nine overflights by Turkish military aircraft and two by civilian aircraft from the north were recorded. There was a decrease of air violations in the south. UNFICYP recorded five civilian aircraft overflights and one National Guard/Cyprus police aircraft overflight during the reporting period. On 4 April, a number of National Guard personnel in military vehicles, including a flagged staff car, were observed in the buffer zone at Athienou. UNFICYP protested these violations.

2. **Paragraph 5**

   The paragraph should read

   5. The National Guard's annual spring exercise took place between 16 and 18 May.

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United Nations S/2000/497

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 26 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you of the most recent instances of cooperation between the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists in bringing pressure to bear on the remaining Serbian population in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

1. On 21 May 2000, a team of foreign pathologists entered the local Serbian cemetery in the village of Bresje near Kosovo Polje and began excavations in search of mass graves in which, they were told, ethnic Albanians allegedly killed during the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia last year had been buried. The local Serbian residents were stunned to learn that unknown individuals were digging the graves of their relatives without their knowledge and approval. They requested an explanation from UNMIK and were told that the pathologists were looking for the graves of buried ethnic Albanians and that they were acting following a request by ethnic Albanians. They dug a few graves, but the protesting Serbs prevented them from further sacrilege. Needless to say, they found no grave, let alone a mass grave in which a single ethnic Albanian was buried.

2. On 22 May 2000 at about 1.30 p.m., a KFOR patrol blocked the road at the exit of the village of Cernice and arrested Miodrag Tesic from Partes, Vlastimir Jankovic from Donja Budriga and Ratko Trifunovic from Zegra on their way back home following a visit to a mutual friend. The KFOR patrol escorted them to its underground military headquarters in a multi-storey ethnic Albanian house. In the headquarters, the existence of which they learned for the first time on that occasion, they were questioned by KFOR officers who requested them to admit that they were members of paramilitary formations or of special units of the Ministry of the Interior or the Army of Yugoslavia. They also imputed to them that they were saboteurs and that they were in Kosovo and Metohija to carry out sabotage activities. They dismissed their claims that they were residents of neighbouring villages, a fact that could be corroborated also by KFOR officers from Partes. After an hour and a half, KFOR released the Serbs, apologizing that they had been misled by the local Albanians from the village of Cernice.

00-45336 (E) 300500

These regrettable activities fall into the deliberate policy of the harassment and intimidation of the remaining Serbs, Muslims, Roma and other non-Albanians, aimed at expelling them from Kosovo and Metohija. The two aforementioned instances are also a patent illustration of the support and cooperation of the international presences, acting under United Nations auspices, with ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists. They also constitute a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and are contrary to the mandate of the international presences, acting under United Nations auspices.

Bearing that in mind, the Security Council is duty-bound to strongly warn UNMIK and KFOR that they must implement the said resolution fully and consistently and abide by their mandate scrupulously and conscientiously.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/498

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 27 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the attached copy of a letter from Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, to the Secretary-General written today, 27 May 2000 (see annex).

The Security Council has, through constant communication from the Eritrean Government and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) — and the Ethiopian Government for that matter — been informed about the positions and actions of the Eritrean and Ethiopian Governments particularly since Ethiopia's latest offensive against Eritrea started on 12 May 2000. Subsequent to its acceptance of the latest request of OAU to immediately redeploy to 6 May 1998 positions, the Eritrean Government has now redeployed its troops from the entire border area between the two countries far beyond what the Ethiopian regime could ever claim to have been controlling prior to May 1998, to leave no room for the Ethiopian Government to use any pretext to continue its war of invasion against Eritrea. Redeployment from "Bada" and "Burrie", the two areas described in President Isaias' letter, has also thus been implemented.

The Organization of African Unity forwarded its latest proposal for immediate redeployment by both sides to 6 May 1998 positions in order to stop the fighting and continue the OAU-sponsored peace process. Redeployment was to be made fully consistent with the stipulations of the OAU modalities, which envisaged a cessation of hostilities before redeployment, with each side committed not to take advantage of the other's troop withdrawal to positions held before 6 May. Openly rejecting this stipulation, the Ethiopian Government has moved its forces into the areas our troops redeployed from, that is advanced deep into undisputed Eritrean territory throughout the border areas. Not only has it occupied these areas, but it also continues to fight to extend its invasion. In the Eritrean territories Ethiopia has occupied, its troops are perpetrating the most horrendous crimes, killing innocent civilians and destroying and plundering property.

The Security Council has, in both resolutions 1297 (2000) and 1298 (2000), demanded that both parties immediately cease all military action. Eritrea had agreed to comply, but has been forced to defend itself because of Ethiopia's invasion of its sovereign territory. Ethiopia defied the Council's demand and continues to do so even after Eritrea's full compliance with the OAU proposal for redeployment of troops to pre-6 May positions. Is the Security Council going to ignore Ethiopia's

00-45342 (E) 300500

defiance, which sets a dangerous precedent for undermining the Council's credibility, the erosion of its authority as a guardian of international security? What more is needed to prove Ethiopia's agenda against Eritrea's very existence as an independent, sovereign State than what Ethiopia has already done and continues to do? How can the Security Council explain its silence, its inaction in the face of such an open affront to the very principles and norms it exists to defend and protect?

It should not be difficult to conclude that Ethiopia's continuation of its war of aggression against Eritrea will only increase the Eritrean people's resolve to fight to defend our independence and dignity. Naturally, under the circumstances of naked Ethiopian invasion of Eritrea, it is only rational and just to expect that the Security Council will not and cannot deny Eritrea its right and weaken its capacity to defend itself. The Government of Ethiopia fully bears responsibility for the continuation of the war and the danger it causes to peace and stability in the wider region and, needless to say, the attendant suffering Ethiopia's war of aggression is causing and will continue to cause the peoples of Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Eritrea hopes that the Security Council will now stop addressing its so far toothless statements and resolutions to "stop fighting" to "both sides", call a spade a spade and take strong, appropriate measures against the Ethiopian regime if only to uphold the principles and its own resolutions that bind it to do so.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 27 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Asmara, 27 May 2000

You will recall that Eritrea has publicly announced its decision to redeploy its forces to areas it held on 6 May 1998 on the basis of the OAU communiqué and the modalities of implementation. This decision was fully executed beginning at midnight on 25 May 2000.

But yesterday, Ethiopia unleashed an attack against our forces which had redeployed 15 km north of Zalanbessa. The fact that the Ethiopian Government is now publicly declaring that it has occupied these areas by force and that its attacks will continue is additional and incontrovertible evidence of its invasion. As you will agree, this act does not only constitute a serious breach of the OAU peace agreements but it underlines mean treachery and accentuates the open invasion that Ethiopia is perpetrating against Eritrea.

Although Eritrea completed the redeployment of its troops to the 6 May line on Thursday, 25 May, Ethiopia raised new claims during the visit of the current Chairman of OAU, President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, to Addis Ababa, arguing that there were "additional areas" which it referred to as "Bada" and "Burrie", from which Eritrea was asked to redeploy. These are not only undisputed sovereign Eritrean territories, but there was never any Ethiopian presence in those places prior to 6 May 1998 or thereafter.

While these are the true facts, Eritrea nonetheless agreed to redeploy from these areas for the sake of peace. This decision, as well as the instructions sent to the relevant commanders in those areas to implement the decision, was communicated to the current Chairman of OAU before his departure from Asmara yesterday and to the international community through a public statement.

If Ethiopia perpetrates an attack in those areas and continues its attacks in other parts of the country, Eritrea expects the international community to take forceful action, as these attacks represent not only a continuation of Ethiopia's invasion but also open contempt for the international community and the rule of law.

Eritrea has accepted the invitation of the current Chairman of OAU to participate in the proximity talks which will be held in Algiers. It will not, however, be tenable or justifiable to conduct proximity talks while Ethiopia continues to wage its war of invasion. Moreover, since Ethiopia's intentions of carrying out an invasion have been exposed and all its pretexts for continuing the war removed, I urge you, and through you the Security Council and the international community at large, to condemn Ethiopia's invasion of a sovereign State in violation of international law and the Charters of OAU and the United Nations and to take appropriate punitive measures against Ethiopia.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**
President
The State of Eritrea

United Nations S/2000/499

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 29 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a copy of a letter received today, 29 May 2000, from Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Haile **Menkerios**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-45349 (E) 300500

Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Asmara, 29 May 2000

Ethiopia's invasion of Eritrea unleashed two weeks ago, which continues to date with impunity, has created a dangerous precedent not only for Eritrea and its people but also for international law and international norms of behaviour.

We vividly recall the measures that the international community took when Kuwait was invaded by Iraq. Bombing campaigns continue against Iraq to this day.

If countries could resort to naked invasion under the pretext of "asserting control" over "disputed borders", invasion and turmoil would be the order of the day. We would have wars of invasion between Egypt and the Sudan (because of the dispute over the Halaib); Saudi Arabia and Yemen; Iran and the United Arab Emirates; Qatar and Bahrain, Nigeria and Burkina Faso, etc.

As you are aware, Ethiopia is today perpetrating naked invasion against Eritrea while the peace process to resolve the border dispute between the two countries peacefully and legally was and is under way.

Unfortunately, the Security Council has adopted punitive measures without differentiation penalizing the aggressed country equally with the aggressor party. This unfortunate decision can only be interpreted as sanctioning Ethiopia's invasion. It is also difficult to explain in terms of international law or accepted international norms.

Ethiopia continues to perpetrate its invasion unabashedly claiming "that it has a right to invade a sovereign nation to control border areas under dispute".

Ethiopia's invasion has caused the internal dislocation of over 1 million Eritrean civilians. Tens of thousands of others have crossed the border into exile. Agricultural schemes that were under preparation as the rainy season is due have been disrupted, creating a very precarious situation for the next harvest. Millions of Eritreans are therefore exposed to structural food deficit and hunger. Ethiopia is wantonly destroying infrastructure and development projects. Ethiopia's invasion has thus created a very grave situation.

In these dire circumstances, I appeal to you on behalf of the Government and people of Eritrea:

1. To condemn Ethiopia's invasion against a sovereign nation in violation of international law and accepted norms of behaviour, as well as to take punitive measures against the aggressor; and to ensure an immediate withdrawal of Ethiopia from the occupied areas;

2. To lift the unfair and inappropriate Security Council sanctions imposed on Eritrea;

3. To ensure that Eritrea receives due compensation for the destruction caused by Ethiopia's invasion;

4. To extend the necessary assistance to the Eritrean people to alleviate the prevailing emergency situation as well as its long-term ramifications.

In conclusion, I appeal to the Security Council to adopt, urgently and without further delay, a resolution on the basis of the four points outlined above and take concrete measures against Ethiopia's invasion.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**
President

United Nations S/2000/500

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2000
English
Original: English/French

France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the Western Sahara, in particular resolution 1108 (1997) of 22 May 1997 and resolution 1292 (2000) of 29 February 2000,

Recalling also the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994,

Welcoming and encouraging efforts by the United Nations to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 22 May 2000 (S/2000/461) and the efforts of his Personal Envoy in his mission as outlined by the Secretary-General, and *endorsing* the observations and recommendations contained therein,

Reiterating full support for the continued efforts exerted by the United Nations Mission for a Referendum in the Western Sahara (MINURSO) to implement the Settlement Plan and agreements adopted by the parties to hold a free, fair and impartial referendum for the self-determination of the people of the Western Sahara, noting that fundamental differences between the parties over the interpretation of the main provisions remain to be resolved,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINURSO until 31 July 2000, with the expectation that the parties will offer the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy specific and concrete proposals that can be agreed to in order to resolve the multiple problems relating to the implementation of the Settlement Plan and explore all ways and means to achieve an early, durable and agreed resolution to their dispute over Western Sahara;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide an assessment of the situation before the end of the present mandate;

3. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

00-45637 (E) 310500

United Nations A/54/887–S/2000/501

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 160
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 25 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Republic of the Sudan has deposited with the relevant depositary States and organizations instruments of accession to the following international agreements for the elimination of terrorism:

1. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation (Montreal, 1988). An instrument of accession was deposited with the Government of the United States of America on 15 May 2000.

2. Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Vienna, 1980). An instrument of accession was deposited with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna on 18 May 2000.

3. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (Rome, 1988). An instrument of accession was deposited with the International Maritime Organization in London on 22 May 2000.

4. Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (Rome, 1992). An instrument of accession was deposited with the International Maritime Organization in London on 22 May 2000.

5. Convention on Offenses and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Tokyo, 1963). An instrument of accession was deposited with the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal on 25 May 2000.

6. Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Montreal, 1991). An instrument of accession was deposited with the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal on 25 May 2000.

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By taking this step the Government of the Sudan has now acceded to all of the international agreements for the suppression of terrorism, and it has signed all of those that still remain open for signature.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to reaffirm the resolve of the Government of the Sudan to promote international efforts for the elimination of international terrorism. As you know, accession to the international conventions for the elimination of international terrorism is a fundamental and indispensable step for the promotion of such efforts and the achievement of the desired goals, as has been affirmed in the successive resolutions and declarations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in this regard.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih Mohamed Ahmed **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

United Nations

S/2000/502

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 26 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 23 May 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Kuwait (S/2000/478). Annexed to this letter is a position paper which the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait claims originated with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). As a State member of that Organization, we were unaware, as we believe other States members and the OIC General Secretariat to have been, of this position paper, which has no official or legal status. It has been published in contravention of the procedure whereby either the State holding the OIC Presidency or the OIC General Secretariat requests circulation of documents by the United Nations. We shall be seeking clarification from the OIC General Secretariat as to the true status of this document.

The submission for publication by Kuwait of this unofficial and illegal paper constitutes an abuse on its part of the right of States to request circulation of documents by the United Nations. It also severely undermines the credibility of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and its rules of procedure. It would appear that a lack of objectivity on the part of the author of this paper has led him to overlook the fact that the credibility of the Organization and its resolutions must be upheld. One paragraph of the paper states: "All of the final communiqués and decisions adopted by successive ministerial conferences and their subsequent coordination meetings have included specific sections calling for the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons to their homeland and their families. It should be noted that most of the resolutions in question were drafted in coordination with representatives of Kuwait before being submitted to OIC meetings for adoption."

The above-mentioned letter from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Kuwait and its annex, in addition to constituting an abuse of the right of States to request circulation of documents by the United Nations and undermining the credibility of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, represents an underhand and selective attempt to politicize the missing persons issue. This is a purely humanitarian issue of concern to Iraq, of whose citizens 1,150 are missing, as well as to Kuwait and third countries. There was no call for this matter to be used for cheap political gain and propaganda with complete disregard for its humanitarian character and the feelings of the families of the missing persons, whatever their nationality.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative